
PETERS TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

THE BIBLE IN LITERATURE II ONLINE

Course Overview and Essential Skills

The Bible has been and still is one of the most influential books ever published. Its influence is seen in literature, art, music, public policy, and public debate. A student's knowledge of the Bible can be a key to unlock other subjects – especially literature, art, music, and the social sciences.

The Bible in Literature II is designed to function as an engaging survey course, not a mastery course. The overriding objective for the elective is to enrich the educational experience of students by providing a solid background in the Bible that will:

- assist students in their other studies
- enhance their own writing and communication
- help them understand and interpret the use of the Bible in society in general.

The ultimate aim is a civic one – to improve biblical and religious literacy.

This semester course will provide students with the opportunity to study one of the most influential books ever written - the Bible. Students will read the Gospels and other writings of the New Testament and examine biblical allusions in classic literature. Students will read other classic works of literature - a novel, short stories, and poetry - to analyze and interpret the Bible's influence. Knowledge of the Bible and its stories has long been recommended by colleges and universities because of the many biblical references that are found in great literature.

Students will be able to ...

- Interpret the definition of cultural literacy and examine why bible literacy is important.
- Trace the history of the Bible's development and translation and examine the impact of the English Bible on the English language.
- Read, analyze, and interpret the different kinds of writing and the various books that make up the New Testament.
- Discover major themes and the kinds of literature found in the New Testament.
- Interpret the importance of literary elements and literary devices such as plot, character, irony, theme, point of view, symbolism, etc. in the New Testament.
- Identify and reflect on the important events, persons, symbols, and motifs within the books of the New Testament.
- Discover how an understanding of biblical allusions contributes to the study and enjoyment of literature, music, and art.
- Read, analyze, and interpret a variety of literature; listen to and analyze a variety of music; and view and analyze a variety of art to identify and appreciate biblical allusions.

Course Textbook and Required Materials

Course Sites (Online LMS)

Schippe, Cullen and Chuck Stetson, eds. *The Bible and Its Influence*. Ft. Royal, Virginia: Bible Literacy Project, 2006. Print.

Required Material:

- Pocket folder
- Pens and pencils
- School-issued journal

Course Outline of Material Covered:

Unit or Topic	Concepts/Skills/Resources	Timeframe
Unit of study or major topic as outlined in curriculum	Unit specific skills or concepts, could include projects or labs, movies used or other specific resources, etc	May indicate the month or amount of time for unit
Introduction to Online Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize copied course material in a pocket folder. • Maintain an updated journal, filled with weekly reflections to various prompts and weekly biblical allusion observations. • Effectively participate in online Discussion Board posts in Course Sites. • Navigate tabs in Course Sites to find course material. Utilize reliable digital resources to conduct research.	
Reading, Writing, and Communicating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compare literary works on the basis of form, structure, and content. • Identify and evaluate the effective use of literary devices in given works. • Demonstrate an increase in the scope of vocabulary. Participate in class discussions and prepare a variety of presentations.	
Introduction to Studying the New Testament	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflect on the benefits gained from an academic study of the Bible as literature and in literature. • Review the constitutionality of studying the Bible. • Review and reflect on the rationale for our textbook selection – <i>The Bible and Its Influence</i>. • Analyze the influence of the New Testament on Western history and culture and more specifically, on American history and culture. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze and interpret the major themes and the kinds of literature found in The New Testament. Analyze and reflect on how understanding biblical allusions contributes to the study and enjoyment of literature, art, and music. Identify, interpret, and analyze biblical allusions in various pieces of literature, art, and music. Define the different literary genres found in the New Testament: narrative, poetry, proverb, parable, epistle, and visionary literature. 	
The New Testament as Another Covenant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compare and contrast Jewish and Christian approaches to / interpretations of the Bible. Read, analyze, and interpret excerpts from the following pieces of Civil Rights literature: <i>Let Us Now Praise Famous Men</i> by James Agee. Make connections between the themes, events, figures, conflicts, and other literary elements in portions of the New Testament with the literature, art, and music featured in the unit. Read, analyze, and interpret the themes in Handel's <i>Messiah</i> as outlined in the excerpt -- "Cultural Connections." 	
The Four Gospels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate to analyze, interpret, discuss and report to the class about the literary elements in one of the four gospels. Identify examples of how the gospels of Mark, Matthew, Luke, and John have influenced Western culture. Read, analyze, and interpret excerpt from the following pieces of literature: "Simon the Cyrenian Speaks" by Countee Cullen, <i>The Old Man and the Sea</i> by Ernest Hemingway, "The Journey of the Magi" by 	

	<p>T.S. Eliot, and <i>Twelfth Night</i> by Shakespeare.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make connections between the themes, events, figures, conflicts, and other literary elements in portions of the New Testament with the literature, art, and music featured in the unit. 	
The Early Christian Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read and interpret the Acts of the Apostles and the Letters of Paul in order to interpret how these books influenced the formation of the new Christian community. • Analyze how the journeys of Paul helped to spread the new Christian community along the Greek shipping routes. • Read, analyze, and interpret excerpts from the following pieces of literature: Derek Walcott's poem "Pentecost," "St. Stephen and Herod," a medieval English ballad, and <i>A Tale of Two Cities</i> by Charles Dickens. • Make connections between the themes, events, figures, conflicts, and other literary elements in portions of the New Testament with the literature, art, and music featured in the unit. 	
The Letters of Paul and Other Letters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read and analyze the Letters of Paul to interpret how Paul's works were important to the formation of the new Christian community. • Analyze the general letters to identify and interpret the key arguments and essential content intended for the new Christian community. • Interpret how the general letters gave advice on leading a good life and how John the Apostle focused on the message of love. • Read, analyze, and interpret excerpts from the following pieces of literature: "The Birthmark" by Nathaniel Hawthorne, <i>Oliver Twist</i> by Charles Dickens, <i>Silence</i> by Shusaku Endo, <i>Franny and Zoe</i> by J.D. Salinger, and <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i> 	

	<p>by Harriet Beecher Stowe, <i>The Chronicles of Narnia</i> by C.S. Lewis, <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> by J.R. R. Tolkien, <i>The Screwtape Letters</i> by C.S. Lewis, <i>The Divine Comedy: the Inferno</i> by Dante Alighieri, and <i>The Gospel of Wealth</i> by Andrew Carnegie.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • View scenes from the film <i>Amazing Grace</i>, the story of William Wilberforce (PG). 	
Apocalyptic Literature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze and interpret the literary significance of the Book of Revelation as a prime example of apocalyptic literature. • Read and interpret historical background information about the Book of Revelation. • Read, analyze, and interpret excerpt from the following pieces of literature featured in the <i>BII</i> chapters: <i>Letters from Prison</i> by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, "Holy Sonnet VII" by John Donne, <i>The Pilgrim's Progress</i> by John Bunyan, <i>The Prelude</i> by William Wordsworth, "Ode to the West Wind" by Percy Bysshe Shelly, "The Second Coming" and "A Vision" by William Butler Yeats, "The Hollow Men" and "The Waste Land" by T.S. Eliot, "The End of the World" by Archibald MacLeish, <i>Jane Eyre</i> by Charlotte Bronte, <i>The Divine Comedy</i> by Dante, and <i>Jerusalem</i> by William Blake. • Make connections between the themes, events, figures, conflicts, and other literary elements in the Book of Revelation with the literature, art, and music featured in the unit. • Identify, analyze, and interpret common themes, events, symbols, and other literary elements in Revelation with films, literature, art, etc. in contemporary/popular culture. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read, analyze, and interpret excerpts from Dante's <i>The Divine Comedy</i>. • Interpret how the Book of Revelation has influenced/inspired other pieces of literature, music, and art, especially the epic poem by Dante Alighieri, <i>The Divine Comedy</i>. • Interpret how the settings, themes, conflicts, images and symbols in Dante's work have inspired many works of art, music, and literature. 	
The Bible's Impact and Legacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze how the English Bible impacted the development of language and literacy throughout American history and how that influence continues today in a legacy of both freedom and faith. • Analyze and interpret the impact of the following statement ... it has been said that "religious liberty makes pluralism more likely; pluralism makes religious liberty more necessary" (<i>BII</i> 372). • Make connections between the themes, events, figures, conflicts, and other literary elements in portions of the New Testament with the literature, art, and music featured in the unit. 	